

# THE POLICE NEWS

## Largest Advanced Citizens Police Academy graduation celebrated by LPPD

August 14, 2014



Graduating class of LPPD's 2014 Advanced Citizens Police Academy

On August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014 the La Porte Police Department proudly hosted a graduation ceremony for the most recent members of their Advanced Citizens Police Academy course. Of particular note, the current graduating class was the largest in program history, with 29 graduates. Since the organization's resurrection of the long-time Citizens Police Academy (CPA) course in 2008, and the creation of an Advanced Citizen Police Academy (ACPA) in 2010, the La Porte Police Department continues to engage in both community outreach programs multiple times a year. Staff at LPPD have expressed that with participant numbers continuing to grow, the citizens of La Porte inspire their police to work that much harder.

The ACPA was recently expanded to a 13-week program with the inclusion of training on Citizen's on Patrol (C.O.P.S.) duties. Under La Porte's C.O.P.S. program, pairs of specially trained volunteers, operating specially marked nonemergency vehicles and armed with a police radio, assist La Porte Police Officers. C.O.P.S. volunteers help in the patrolling neighborhood parks, addressing handicapped parking violations, and generally serving as additional sets of watchful eyes throughout the community.

Outside of the C.O.P.S. training and activities enjoyed by the current graduating class, the essence of the CPA and ACPA programs remain the same in their other core areas: providing a working knowledge and background of the La Porte Police Department and other area emergency responders, while simultaneously fostering a closer relationship between individual police officers and the

community they serve. The 13-week academy was taught one evening a week with each class lasting three to four hours. The subjects covered during the academy addressed various attributes of emergency operations such as: First responder activities for LPFD, Port of Houston Security and Police operations, LPPD Special Weapons and Tactics (S.W.A.T.), Houston Transtar functions, responsibilities of the Harris County Precinct #8 Constable's office, and the trial and adjudication processes of the La Porte Minicipal Counrt. Several of these classes also involved field trips with hands-on experience.

Graduates of the latest Advanced CPA Class included: Joan Allen, Susan Allen, Brittany Avila, Tammy Bird, Tim Bird, Wanda Cummings, Joyce Dudley, Norma Elliot, Romona Gadberry, Carol Gloyna, Kim Guarino, Jimmie L Henderson, Carolyn McPeak, Kate McPeak, James Miller, Herschel Moore Jr., Herschel Moore Sr., Daniel Parker, Jo Ann Pitzer, Shirley Rogers, Mary Seago, Margret Stout, Lois Tandy, Brenda Thompson, Ed Thompson, Michael Urich, Janice Wilson, Nikki Wyatt, and Josh Zech.

CPA and Advanced CPA graduates find an abundance of rewarding volunteer opportunities through a series of community service projects & varying station house duties. For questions concerning either of La Porte's Citizens Police Academies, please contact the Support Services Division at 281-842-3174 or 3183, or log onto the department's website at [www.ci.la-porte.us/gov/police/support/default.asp](http://www.ci.la-porte.us/gov/police/support/default.asp).